

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 04268 132335Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-01 SAB-01 SS-10 SP-02 INR-05

SIL-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-03 /034 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2350

CONFIDENTIAL PANAMA 4268

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, PN, PQ

SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - CANAL ZONE LABOR

REF: PANAMA 4267

1. SINCLAIR OF AFSCME ADVISED AT NOON JUNE 13 THAT AFL-CIO PANCOM HAD MET (REFTEL) AND HE HAD JUST HAD TELEPHONE REPORT FROM HAMILTON OF AFSCME NATIONAL, WHO ATTENDED. HE SAID PAN COM DECIDED TO DESIGNATE CLU-MTC PRESIDENT ALFRED GRAHAM AS PRINCIPAL LABOR SPOKESMAN TO US TREATY NEGOTIATORS, WITH NMU REGIONAL DIRECTOR RENE LIOEANJIE AS ALTERNATE. DONOHUE OF AFL-CIO HEADQUARTERS WAS TASKED WITH INFORMING DEPT. OF THIS.

2. SINCLAIR SAID HAMILTON HAD NOTED THAT AFSCME RESERVED THE RIGHT TO DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM ANYTHING SAID BY GRAHAM OR LIOEANJIE WITH WHICH IT COULD NOT AGREE. HE SAID AFSCME, WITH SUPPORT OF ITS NATIONAL, WAS NOT PREPARED TO CEASE ITS ONGOING DIALOG WITH PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS.

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3. SINCLAIR WAS ACUTELY CONCERNED THAT BOTH CLU-MTC AND NMU STRONGLY FAVOR APPLICATION OF EO 11491 IN CANAL ZONE; AFSCME STRONGLY OPPOSES IT. HE SAID AFSCME WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK THROUGH PANAMANIANS TO THIS END.

4. COMMENT: EO 11491 IS ALSO OPPOSED BY AFGE AND ITS LOCAL 14, ZONE'S LARGEST U.S.-CITIZEN UNION (REFTEL).

UNLESS AFL-CIO TAKES AN ORGANIZATION DECISION ON
EO 11491, DESIGNATION OF GRAHAM AND LIOEANJIE DOES NOT
IMPLY THAT CANAL ZONE LABOR'S HOUSE HAS BEEN SET IN ORDER
ON THIS SCORE YET.

5. SINCLAIR HAD NO REPORT FROM HAMILTON ON WHETHER PANCOM
CONSIDERED QUESTION OF WHETHER "LABOR GUARANTEES" SHOULD
BE INCLUDED IN TREATY OR AN ANNEX THERETO, OR IF MATTER
COULD BE HANDLED BY TREATY'S AFFORDING UNILATERAL US
COMPETENCE IN THIS FIELD WITH ANY "GUARANTEES" BEING EMBODIED
IN LEGISLATION. GRAHAM HAS INCLINED STRONGLY TOWARD THE
"LABOR ANNEX" APPROACH, AS HAVE LIOEANJIE AND MOST OTHER CANAL
ZONE LABOR LEADERS. HE IS A DISCIPLINED TRADE UNIONIST, AND
IF TOLD HE DID NOT HAVE AFL-CIO NATIONAL BACKING IN THIS HE
WOULD PROBABLY REVERSE HIMSELF. BUT UNLESS AND UNTIL AFL-CIO
DECIDES TO DISAVOW THE "LABOR ANNEX" APPROACH IN AN AUTHORITATIVE
WAY AT NATIONAL LEVEL, IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT THESE LABOR
REPRESENTATIVES WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR A LABOR ANNEX TO THE
NEW TREATY PROPER.

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